

TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

Making Life Easier for Parkland Faculty & Alleviating the Overload



social bookmarking: del.icio.us

With the fourth marking period fast approaching, it is that time of year when you will want to back-up your files and save your bookmarks. Each spring the technology department gathers teacher computers to re-image and update software; this leaves teachers scrambling to save another year's worth of professional growth. Let this be the last year that you spend valuable time saving your bookmarks! Welcome to the world of social bookmarking.

The social bookmarking tool, del.icio.us, enables you to house your bookmarks online. With del.icio.us you can save and access bookmarks from any computer with internet access! A teacher's time is precious, so why waste it trying to locate a great website you previously found?

The time has come when keeping data on one computer is inconvenient. We may use a Mac at school, a PC at home, and a number of public computers in between. Having your research and favorite resources at your finger tips saves you significant time and curtails the fear of losing data.

While convenient, social bookmarking also saves time by allowing you to share bookmarks! That's right, your colleagues, friends, and family can access your bookmarks with your permission. Imagine what time we would save if we shared all of our great internet resources with our colleagues!

Del.icio.us is a free tool that takes just moments to set up. Del.icio.us organizes bookmarks according to "tags" that you assign; it does not organize bookmarks according to folders. Tags allow you to associate multiple terms with a bookmark. You can then search your bookmarks according to common tags in a cloud, which appears on the next page.

Del.icio.us does offer an add-on button to synchronize browser bookmarks with the web application. NOTE: There is an additional step if you would like to use the add-on in the Firefox browser; please visit the [CFF wiki](#) for more information.

Do you want to find out more about del.icio.us?

Jim Kester is our del.icio.us expert.

Jim facilitated the del.icio.us seminars during both the fall and spring in-services and may facilitate another seminar if a number of faculty members are interested. If your department or PLC is interested in learning about del.icio.us, please contact Jason Henry who will make instructional arrangements.



HINT: Consider keeping usernames and passwords the same for internet based tools that you implement in the classroom. For instance, you may want to use your last name and first initial, which designates your school email address.

CLASS CORNER

Professional Learning Communities

Do you have folders-upon-folders of internet resources that you would love to share with your colleagues if only you had the time? The one thing teachers seem to be lacking is time! Why not put your bookmarks on del.icio.us? ~~Members of your~~ PLC can subscribe to one another's bookmarks and you will never have to search through old emails to find that important link a colleague suggested.

Pedagogical Tool

Do you spend a significant amount of time searching for valid internet sources to supplement your curriculum only to find that the link is obsolete the next year? Del.icio.us identifies links that may be of use to you through bookmarking groups. Essentially, you identify a topic of interest and del.icio.us sends you an array of related links! It's that simple. Further, the web application also tells you the popularity of a specific link.

Foster Student Collaboration

Students can subscribe to your links; this offers students a wide range of resources to further learning. Students can also create bookmarking groups, helping one another locate and validate internet sources. Remember: students can only access your bookmarks if you have made them public.

TAGS help you **organize**

your **bookmarks**

through **association** •

Instead of **filing** bookmarks

in **folders** you sort

bookmarks **IN** del.icio.us

using **TAGS** • **TAGS**

allow you to **QUICKLY**

search your bookmarks or

view bookmarks in a *cloud* •



Social bookmarking with del.icio.us keeps ALL of your bookmarks on the web. Organization is easy--simply "tag" your bookmarks and you will be able to view bookmarks with common tags! This allows you to add multiple tags to a single bookmark. Can't wait to get started? Check out this video on [Teacher Tube!](#)



Head over to the [CFF wikispace](#) for instructions on setting up a del.icio.us account!